

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 685

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 9654

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: NETHERLANDS-SOVIET BILATERAL

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

REF: VIENNA 9653

1. TEXT OF MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION BETWEEN NETHERLANDS REP (QUARLES) AND SOVIET DEL OFF KVITSINSKIY FOLLOWS. BEGIN TEXT:

2. DATE - MR. KVITSINSKIY DISPUTED EXACTITUDE OF OUR DATA ON WP FORCES BUT DECLINED TO GIVE OTHER FIGURES.

3. DISPARITIES - MR. KVITSINSKIY ARGUED THE CASE THAT A BALANCE OF FORCES ALREADY EXISTS IN THE AREA IF AIR FORCE PLUS
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NUCLEAR UNITS ARE INCLUDED. THEREFORE IT SOVIET UNION ACCEPTED

TO DIMINISH WHAT THE WEST CALLS "DISPARITIES" THE NET RESULT
WOULD BE TO UPSET THE ACTUAL BALANCE.
THE WEST SHOULD DROP ITS LINE OF ARGUMENT BASED ON ARBITRARILY LIFTING

FORCE ELEMENTS OUT OF AN OVERALL STRUCTURE. MR. QUARLES DREW
KVITSINSKIY'S ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT A WITHDRAWAL
OF SOVIET FORCES OVER A FEW HUNDRED KILOMETERS COULD IN NO WAY
EFFECT THE "WIDER BALANCE" AS THEY SAW IT. THEY RETAINED
THEIR FORCES IN ACTIVE DUTY, WHILST THE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES
COULD DEMOBILIZE THE FORCES THEY REDUCED. MR. QUARLES ARGUED
THAT WHAT WE WERE ABOUT IS NOT MERELY A MILITARY OPERATION
TO NATE IN CENTRAL EUROPE A BALANCE OF FORCE RELATIONSHIP
WHICH WOULD PROVIDE THE BASIS AND FRAMEWORK FOR CLOSER
COOPERATION BETWEEN EAST AND WEST. A STABLE SITUATION WITHOUT
FEAR THAT NUCLEAR WEAPONS WOULD EVER HAVE TO BE USED.

4. FORCES TO BE INCLUDED - MR. KVITSINSKIY ARGUED THE EAST'S
CASE FOR INCLUSION OF NATIONAL FORCES, AIR AND NUCLEAR FORCES.
MR. QUARLES PRESENTED THE WEST'S CASE WHY NATIONAL FORCES
SHOULD NOT BE INCLUDED IN THE FIRST PHASE. HE FURTHER POINTED
TO THE TREMENDOUS COMPLICATIONS THE SOVIETS WERE INTRODUCING
INTO THE FIRST PHASE, WHICH THEY CALLED SYMBOLIC. HOW WOULD
WE THUS EVER REACH AGREEMENT EVEN ON A RELATIVELY SMALL SCALE?
HE ASKED WHETHER THE USSR WOULD REALLY PUSH THE CASE
FOR INCLUSION IN THIS STAGE OF THESE FORCES. WE INTEND TO
INCLUDE NATIONAL FORCES IN THE SECOND PHASE AND COMMIT OUR-
SELVES TO DO SO IN THE AGREEMENT ON THE FIRST PHASE. WHY
NOT TRY TO RESOLVE THE ISSUES OF AIR FORCE AND NUCLEAR
FORCES AT A LATER STAGE? MR. KVITSINSKIY REPLIED THAT THESE
WERE THEIR INSTRUCTIONS BUT THAT TO DEAL WITH THEM LATER
COULD PERHAPS BE CONSIDERED PROVIDED THE LINK BETWEEN THE
TWO PHASES SPELLED MATTERS OUT CONCRETELY. END TEXT.HUMES

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